

(12) **UK Patent Application** (19) **GB** (11) **2 353 800** (13) **A**

(43) Date of A Publication 07.03.2001

(21) Application No 9920678.1

(22) Date of Filing 02.09.1999

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(51) INT CL⁷

C11D 3/39 // C11D 3/10 3/48

(52) UK CL (Edition S)

C5D DHC D107 D108 D110 D114 D116 D117 D118 D120
D121 D127 D129 D142 D147 D149 D150 D154 D162
D166 D168 D173 D180

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(58) Field of Search

UK CL (Edition R) C5D
INT CL⁷ C11D 3/39 3/395
ONLINE:EPODOC, WPI, JAPIO

(54) Abstract Title

Antibacterial detergent compositions

(57) The invention relates to compositions comprising a peroxyacid bleach precursor, a peroxide source, at least 15% by weight of a carbonate source, which may comprise the hydrogen peroxide source or part thereof, and at least 7% by weight of an organic carboxylic acid whereby a 1% solution of the composition in demineralised water provides a pH from 8.8 to 9.9. The compositions are useful to provide sanitisation of fabrics, in particular to reduce the activity of certain bacteria groups.

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Sanitising Compositions and Methods

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Technical Field

This invention provides specific sanitising compositions and methods for improved
10 sanitisation of fabrics.

Background to the Invention

Traditionally, hard-surface cleaners contain bleach as cleaning agent and disinfectant.
They generally contain high levels of chlorine bleach to achieve the required cleaning
15 and disinfecting properties.

Research has shown that hydrogen peroxide bleach in laundry and dish washing
detergents also has a disinfecting action and, more recently, detergent manufacturers
have become interested in the disinfecting properties of these detergents. Peroxyacid
20 bleach precursors are also known to provide antimicrobial action.

However, not all bleach systems which have sufficient disinfecting properties are
suitable for detergents: bleach is not always compatible with other detergent
ingredients, such as enzymes, or moreover, the levels of bleach required to obtain
25 disinfecting are too high and may damage the fabrics.

The inventors found that peroxyacid bleach precursors can be the preferred bleach
species to deliver sanitisation of fabrics during the wash. They found however that a
problem with these bleach precursors is that they form the peroxyacid bleach at a
30 high, alkaline pH, but that at such a high, alkaline pH the peroxyacid, which is found

to be the active species which gives the sanitisation benefits, dissociates to the inactive form, resulting thus in reduced sanitisation.

Also, a preferred bleaching ingredient in detergents is a percarbonate salt. The
5 percarbonate makes the solution very alkaline, which is as set out above not desirable when aiming to keep high levels of the active species, i.e. the peroxyacid itself, and thus the antimicrobial performance thereof. Also many builders provide an alkaline pH in the wash, which is not desirable when seeking an efficient sanitisation.

10 Moreover, many detergent ingredients also require high. alkaline pH conditions in the wash, which are not compatible with the preferred pH of the wash required to have a high level of peroxyacid.

Thus it is difficult to formulate detergents in such a way that preferably small
15 amounts peroxyacid bleach precursors provide efficient sanitisation whilst at the same time excellent cleaning is achieved.

They inventors have now found a way to provide efficient antimicrobial performance and or sanitisation whilst a good cleaning of both bleachable and non-bleachable
20 stains is achieved. They found a that when the pH of the detergent in the wash water is controlled, namely from 8.8 and 9.9, preferably from 9.0 or even 9.2 to 9.85 or even to 9.8, in particular achieved by using specific levels of acid and alkaline ingredients and optionally buffers, excellent sanitisation and cleaning is obtained, whilst only limited amounts of precursor are required, making the compositions more
25 storage stable and safer to use. They found that these detergent compositions can then even contain percarbonate bleach.

The specific compositions of the invention are preferably used to effectively provide sanitisation of fabrics or, effectively inactivate micro-organisms, in particular

bacteria which are difficult to inactivate, such as in particular E. Hirae, but also S. Aureus, E Coli and Ps Aeruginosa.

Summary of the invention

- 5 The invention relates to laundry or dish washing detergent composition comprising, at least 15% by weight of a carbonate source and a bleach system which contains at least 2.5% by weight of a peroxyacid bleach precursor and a hydrogen peroxide source, which may include a salt of a percarbonate and may thus be part of the carbonate source, and at least 7% by weight of an acid, preferably an organic acid,
- 10 more preferably including a organic carboxylic acid, characterised in that a 1% by weight mixture of the composition in demineralised water of a temperature of 20°C obtained after 10 minutes stirring at a speed of 200rpm, provides a pH from 8.8 to 9.9.
- 15 The invention also relates to a method of providing sanitisation during the wash by use of a composition of the invention and a method for inactivate E. Hirae, S. Aureus, E. Coli and Ps Aeruginosa.

- The inventors have also found that, when the laundry and dish washing compositions
- 20 of the invention are for use in automatic laundry methods, improved antimicrobial performance or sanitisation of the fabrics is achieved when the composition is delivered directly into the drum of the washing machine, for example by use of a dispensing device. One embodiment of the invention thus relates to a washing method for washing fabrics whereby a the composition of the invention is introduced
- 25 into the drum of a washing machine by placing a dispensing device comprising the composition in the drum prior to the introduction of wash water.

Detailed Description of the Invention

- The composition of the invention is preferably such that a 1% mixture of the
- 30 composition in demineralised water, at a temperature of 20°C, obtained after 10

minutes stirring at a speed of 200rpm, provides a pH from 9.0 to 9.85 or even from 9.2 to 9.85 or even to 9.8, or even from 9.4 to 9.8. The pH is measured after stirring the mixture, for 10 minutes at a constant temperature, by any conventional pH measurement method.

5

With the term '1% mixture' is meant any mixture, dispersion or solution of 1 weight unit of the composition in 99 weight units of demineralised water, and it is thus to be understood that if the composition is not dissolved fully after 10 minutes, the pH is measured of such a mixture or dispersion.

10

When used herein, 'reduction of the activity of the micro-organisms' includes a reduction of the activity as defined in the CEN method prEN1276, 1993, (Comité Européen de Normalisation) and CEN method prEN 1650. The reduction therein is preferably represented by a reduction of the specific micro-organism or bacteria by at least 10^5 , more preferably at least 2×10^5 , or even 3×10^5 .

15

The reduction of the activity of the micro-organisms when used herein includes the reduction of any of the processes conducted by the micro-organism, including secretion of products but preferably the growth of the micro-organisms.

20

The invention also provides a method for reduction of the activity of micro-organisms, or preferably specific bacteria, comprising the steps of contacting the micro-organism with an aqueous liquor comprising the composition of the invention such that the peroxyacid provided by the precursor is present at a level of at least 100 ppm in the liquor, per 10^6 micro-organisms.

25

Preferably, the composition is such that at least the activity of *E. Hirae*, but more preferably also of *S. Aureus*, *E Coli* and *Ps Aeruginosa*, is reduced by at least 10^5 , preferably at least 2×10^5 or even 3×10^5 , as measured by the above CEN method.

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In particular, the activity reduction is done during a laundering process. Hereby, the composition of the invention can be contacted with the specific micro-organisms in solid form, but preferably the bleaching agent is present in a liquor in contact with the micro-organisms.

5

The specific micro-organisms, preferably the specific bacteria, can be present on the surfaces or fabrics to be cleaned and sanitised, for example on the fabrics to be cleaned in a laundry process. The bacteria can also be present in the liquor used for the cleaning or sanitisation process or in the equipment used in the process, such as
10 the washing machine or dispensing device.

The composition of the invention is particularly useful in inactivating micro-organisms having cell walls comprising relatively high levels of peptidoglycan, in particular gram positive bacteria, which can be present in soils or stains on the fabrics
15 or surfaces, in particular in body soils.

The amount of composition required to obtain effective reduction of the activity of the specific micro-organisms depends on various factors, such as the amount of micro-organisms present, the conditions of the sanitisation or cleaning process.
20 including the other compounds present and the temperature of the cleaning process.

In the method of the invention, the liquor used preferably comprises at least 100 ppm of the peroxyacid per 10^6 micro-organisms, more preferably at least 200 ppm or even 250 ppm.

25

The reduction of the activity of the specific micro-organisms, having a peptidoglycan-containing cell walls can be determined by the Petrocci and Clarke method, as described in JOAC 1981, but is preferably determined for the purpose of this invention by the CEN method prEN1276, 1993 for bacteria and CEN method
30 prEN1650 for yeast.

Such a CEN method involves, for example, the preparation of gram positive bacterial inocula conform the CEN method, pages 7 and further, preparation of a solution comprising the hydrophobic bleaching agent at a level of about 250ppm, conducting
 5 the test following the CEN method, incubation TSA plates for 24 hours at 36°C; and subsequently counting of the bacteria colonies on the plates.

This is compared with the results of the reference and the reduction of bacteria growth is calculated, for the defined contacting time.

10

Acids

The composition comprises at least 7% by weight of one or more acids, preferably an organic acid, preferably including at least an organic carboxylic acid. The exact levels will depend on the other ingredients of the detergent composition and the alkalinity
 15 thereof, so that the level of the acid is adjusted to provide the required pH.

Preferably the acid is present at a level of at least 8% by weight of the composition or even at least 9% or even at least 10% by weight of the composition, with as upper limit a level of preferably 30% or even 20% by weight of the composition.

20

Suitable acids to be used herein include materials or which not only help to provide the required pH of the formulation, but which also have a secondary function in the composition, such as acting as a chelating agent, builder and/ or effervescence source. Useful inorganic acids include boric acid, bisulphite salts and bisulphite
 25 salts, preferably sodium salts thereof.

Preferably, the acid comprises at least an organic carboxylic acid. Such acids include mono- or polycarboxylic acids preferably citric acid, adipic acid, glutaric acid, 3 chetoglutaric acid, citramalic acid, tartaric acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, malic
 30 acid, succinic acid, malonic acid but also polymeric or oligomeric polycarboxylic

acids, such as acrylic acid polymers or maleic acid polymers, or copolymers of maleic acid and acrylic acid.

Most preferably the organic carboxylic acid herein comprises at least 7% by weight
5 of the composition of maleic acid, malic acid or citric acid, or mixtures thereof.

It may be preferred that mixtures of organic carboxylic acids and inorganic acids are used, for example in ratio's of from 1:1 to 10:1 or even from 2:1 to 5:1.

10 The acid may be present as a separate components or in solid compositions of the invention, the acid may be incorporated in a granule together with other detergent ingredients. In the latter case, it may be preferred the acid is a particulate material whereof at least 75%, preferably at least 85% or even at least 90% or even at least 95% or even at least 99% by volume, has a particle size from 1 to 500 microns and
15 more preferably from 1 to 350 microns and it may even be preferred that at least 65% or even at least 75% or even at least 85% has a particle size from 1.0 to 250 microns or even from 1.0 to 150 microns.

These particle sizes can be determined by any method known in the art, in particular
20 by laser light scattering or defraction technique, such as with Malvem 2600 or Sympatec Helos laser light scattering equipment (or defractometer).

When the acid is present as a separate particle in solid composition of the invention, the particle size distribution and mean is preferably similar to particle size
25 distribution and mean of the other components of the composition, as described hereinafter.

Salts of inorgnic acids and/ or salts or esters of organic carboxylic acids may also be present as additional components, in particular because it may be beneficial to thus
30 buffer the composition at the required pH. For example, it may be preferred that the

composition comprises a salt of citric acid, maleic acid, malic acid, glutaric acid or tartaric acid or barate salt, or mixtures thereof.

Carbonate source

- 5 The compositions of the present invention comprises at least 15% by weight of a carbonate source. Preferred carbonate sources include carbonate, bicarbonate and percarbonate salts and preferably the carbonate source comprises a mixture of three salts.
- 10 It is to be understood that the percarbonate salt when present, forms part of both the carbonate source and the hydrogen peroxide source as defined herein. Thus, in a preferred embodiment of the invention, the composition comprises a percarbonate salt to provide hydrogen peroxide and carbonate. For example, when the composition comprises at least 10% by weight of a percarbonate salt, as hydrogen peroxide source
- 15 and carbonate source, the composition also contains at least 5% by weight of another carbonate source.

- The level of carbonate sources will depend on the nature of the detergent. Also, if percarbonate salt is used as hydrogen peroxide source, reduced levels of other
- 20 carbonate sources may only be needed. Preferably, the composition comprises a mixture of carbonate sources, preferably including a carbonate salt, bicarbonate salt and percarbonate salt. Then, the composition comprises preferably at least 5% by weight of a carbonate salt, at least 2% by weight of a bicarbonate salt and at least 8% by weight of a percarbonate salt, more preferably at least 7% by weight of a
- 25 carbonate salt, at least 4% by weight of a bicarbonate salt and at least 15% by weight of a percarbonate salt.

- Suitable carbonates sources to be used herein include carbonate and hydrogen carbonate or bicarbonate of earthalkali or alkali metals and sodium and potassium
- 30 salts. The inventors found that it may be particularly useful to include a bicarbonate

salt into the compositions, because it has been found that the bicarbonate salt provides a buffered pH at around the pH value needed to form the peroxyacids from the precursors, for example of TAED as described hereinafter.

- 5 In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the composition comprises at least 1%, preferably at least 2% or even at least 4% by weight of the composition of an alkali or earth alkali salt of bicarbonate, preferably sodium bicarbonate. This salt may be present up to any level, preferably up to 20% by weight of the composition, more preferably up to 15% or even up to 10% by weight of the composition.

10

The carbonate, bicarbonate and percarbonate salts herein may be present as separate particulate components or may be incorporated in detergent granules together with other detergent ingredients.

The carbonate and bicarbonate material, when present in other detergent granules, may preferably have a volume median particle size from 1 to 500 microns, whereby preferably at least 60%, preferably at least 70% or even at least 80% or even at least 90% by volume, has a particle size of from 0.5 to 1180 microns. More preferably, the carbonate or bicarbonate salts has a volume median particle size of 10 to 375, whereby preferably at least 60 %, or even at least 70% or even at least 80% or even at least 90% by volume, has a particle size of from 1 to 850 microns; or even preferably a volume median particle size from 10 to 250 microns, whereby preferably at least 60 %, preferably at least 70% or even at least 80% or even at least 90% by volume, has a particle size of from 5 to 425 microns.

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It may be preferred that the required particle size of the carbonate and/ or bicarbonate salt is obtained by grinding a larger particle size material, optionally followed by selecting the material with the required particle size by any suitable method.

Preferably, the carbonate source is incorporated in the composition in such a manner that it is capable to react with the acid to provide effervescing upon contact with water.

5 Hydrogen peroxide source

The compositions of the invention comprise a hydrogen peroxide source. Preferably, this is a persalt such a salts of percarbonate, perborate, perphosphate, peroxymonopersulfate and persilicate salts. The inorganic perhydrate salts are normally the alkali metal salts. The alkali metal salt of percarbonate, perborate, or
 10 mixtures thereof, are the preferred inorganic perhydrate salts for use herein. Preferred perborate is sodium perborate in the form of the monohydrate or tetrahydrate, respectively of nominal formula $\text{NaBO}_2\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ and $\text{NaBO}_2\text{H}_2\text{O}_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$. Other suitable oxygen bleaches include persulphates, particularly potassium persulphate $\text{K}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$ and sodium persulphate $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$.

15

Highly preferred is an alkali metal salt of percarbonate, preferably sodium percarbonate, which then forms also part of the carbonate source, described above.

Typically, the compositions in the present invention comprise from 5% to 50% by
 20 weight of the total composition of a hydrogen peroxide source, preferably from 10% to 45% and more preferably from 15% to 35% by weight or even from 17% or even 19% to 30% or even to 25% by weight of the composition.

The persalts may be coated by any coating material, preferably comprising a sulphate
 25 salt, such as magnesium sulphate or preferably sodium sulphate, carbonate or bicarbonate salt or mixtures thereof.

Preferred persalts and methods for making it are described in for example
 WO97/35951, WO96/14388, WO97/19890, WO94/02568, EP891417-A,
 30 EP681557A.

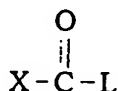
Bleach precursors

The granular compositions herein comprise a peroxyacid bleach precursor.

Preferably, the peroxyacid bleach precursor is present at a level of from 3% to 10%
 5 or even 3.5% to 8% or even 4% to 6% by weight of the composition.

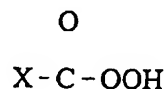
Peroxyacid bleach precursors are compounds which react with hydrogen peroxide in
 a perhydrolysis reaction to produce a peroxyacid. Generally peroxyacid bleach
 precursors may be represented as

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where L is a leaving group and X is essentially any functionality, such that on
 perhydrolysis the structure of the peroxyacid produced is

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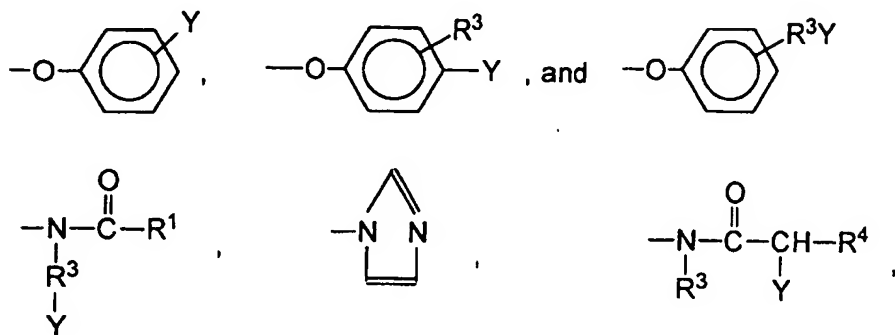


20 Suitable peroxyacid bleach precursor compounds typically contain one or more N- or
 O-acyl groups, which precursors can be selected from a wide range of classes.
 Suitable classes include anhydrides, esters, imides, lactams and acylated derivatives
 of imidazoles and oximes. Examples of useful materials within these classes are
 disclosed in GB-A-1586789. Suitable esters are disclosed in GB-A-836988, 864798,
 25 1147871, 2143231 and EP-A-0170386.

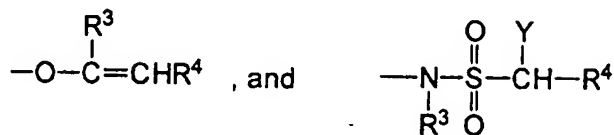
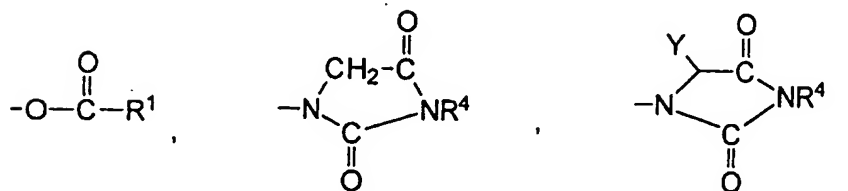
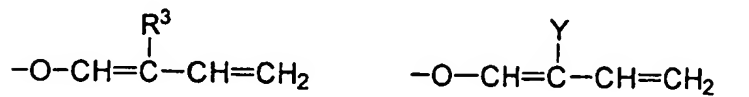
The leaving group, hereinafter L group, must be sufficiently reactive for the
 perhydrolysis reaction to occur within the optimum time frame (e.g., a wash cycle).

However, if L is too reactive, this activator will be difficult to stabilize for use in a bleaching composition.

Preferred L groups are selected from the group consisting of:



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and mixtures thereof, wherein R^1 is an alkyl, aryl, or alkaryl group containing from 1 to 14 carbon atoms, R^3 is an alkyl chain containing from 1 to 8 carbon atoms, R^4 is H or R^3 , and Y is H or a solubilizing group. Any of R^1 , R^3 and R^4 may be substituted by essentially any functional group including, for example alkyl,

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hydroxy, alkoxy, halogen, amine, nitrosyl, amide and ammonium or alkyl ammonium groups.

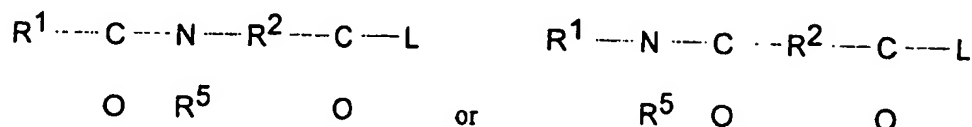
The preferred solubilizing groups are $-\text{SO}_3^-\text{M}^+$, $-\text{CO}_2^-\text{M}^+$, $-\text{SO}_4^-\text{M}^+$, $-\text{N}^+(\text{R}^3)_4\text{X}^-$ and $\text{O}=\text{N}(\text{R}^3)_3$ and most preferably $-\text{SO}_3^-\text{M}^+$ and $-\text{CO}_2^-\text{M}^+$ wherein R^3 is an alkyl chain containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, M is a cation which provides solubility to the bleach activator and X is an anion which provides solubility to the bleach activator. Preferably, M is an alkali metal, ammonium or substituted ammonium cation, with sodium and potassium being most preferred. and X is a halide, hydroxide, methylsulfate or acetate anion.

Preferred examples of such compounds are tetracetyl ethylene diamine, (TAED), sodium 3, 5, 5 trimethyl hexanoyloxybenzene sulphonate, nonylamide of peroxyadipic acid and n-nonanoyloxybenzenesulphonate (NOBS), - decanoyloxyloxybenzenesulphonate, dodecanoyloxybenzenesulphonate and acetyl triethyl citrate (ATC), Phenolsulphonate Ester of N-nonanoyl-6-aminocaproic acid, aliphatic diacyl peroxide (DAP) having the general formula $\text{R}-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{O}-\text{O}-(\text{O})\text{C}-\text{R}_1$, wherein R and R_1 can be the same or different and are linear or branched aliphatic groups having from 6 to 20 carbon atoms.

Also particularly preferred are N-acyl caprolactam selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted benzoyl caprolactam, octanoyl caprolactam, nonanoyl caprolactam, hexanoyl caprolactam, decanoyl caprolactam, undecenoyl caprolactam, formyl caprolactam, acetyl caprolactam, propanoyl caprolactam, butanoyl caprolactam pentanoyl caprolactam.

Examples of other suitable compounds are disclosed in British Patent GB 1 586 769, GB 2 143 231, US 4 818 425 and US 4 259 201.

Amide substituted alkyl peroxyacid precursor compounds are suitable herein, including those of the following general formulae:



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wherein R^1 is an alkyl group with from 1 to 14 carbon atoms, R^2 is an alkylene group containing from 1 to 14 carbon atoms, and R^5 is H or an alkyl group containing 1 to 10 carbon atoms and L can be essentially any leaving group, preferably a oxybenzene sulfonate. Amide substituted bleach activator compounds of this type are described in EP-A-0170386. Nonanamido caproyl oxybenzene sulfonate, preferably in the form of the sodium salt, NACA-OBS, is a preferred precursor of this type.

10

A highly preferred bleach precursor herein is TAED, NACA-OBS, DOBS and/ or NOBS. The compositions herein may comprise mixtures of said bleach activators, because it has been found that this may result in improved sanitisation. Highly preferred is a mixture of TAED and a precursor selected from NOBS, DOBS or NACA-OBS. It has been found that further improved sanitisation is achieved when such mixed precursor systems are used, in particular when the ratio of TAED to NOBS, DOBS or NACA-OBS is from 1:2 to 2:1.

20

The precursor may be in the form of a separate detergent granule, which may be coated, or in the form of a detergent granule comprising also other detergent actives. It preferably is present in the form of a particulate component having a similar particle size distribution and mean particle size as the other detergent particles.

25

The inventors also found that it can be beneficial when the precursor and hydrogen peroxide source are present intimately mixed with one another, for example in a

granule. This mixture or granule is preferably being substantially free of organic acids.

5 It should be understood that for the purpose of the invention, the peroxy acid formed of the precursor is not part of the acid component of the composition of the invention.

Laundry and Dish Washing Method

10 Machine laundry methods herein typically comprise treating soiled laundry or dishes with an aqueous wash solution in a washing machine having dissolved or dispensed therein an effective amount of a detergent in accord with the invention. In particular laundry washing methods are envisaged herein. For example, an effective amount of the laundry detergent composition for laundry washing is normally meant from 10g to 300g of product dissolved or dispersed in a wash solution of volume from 5 to 65
15 litres, as are typical product dosages and wash solution volumes commonly employed in conventional machine laundry methods. Dosage is dependent upon the particular conditions such as water hardness and degree of soiling of the soiled laundry.

20 The reduction of the activity of the micro-organisms present in the wash and on the soiled fabrics preferably takes place during a washing method, preferably a automatic or hand laundry, at low temperatures up to 60°C or even up to 45°C or even around 30°C.

25 The detergent composition may be dispensed for example, from the drawer dispenser of a washing machine or may be sprinkled over the soiled laundry placed in the machine.

In one highly preferred use aspect a dispensing device is employed in the washing method, to introduced the composition of the invention directly in the drum of the wash. It has been found that improved sanitisation is then achieved.

- 5 Any dispensing device can be sued, including preferred dispensing devices for use with the composition of the invention have been described in the following patents; GB-B-2, 157, 717, GB-B-2, 157, 718, EP-A-0201376, EP-A-0288345 and EP-A-0288346, WO94/11562.

10 Detergent compositions

- The compositions of the present invention can be prepared with different bulk densities, preferably being from 300 to 1200 g/l, preferably from 500 to 1100 g/l or even 550g/l to 900g/l. These compositions are preferably solid compositions, preferably solid laundry detergents, which can be made by a variety of methods well
 15 known in the art, including dry-mixing, spray drying, extrusion, roller compaction, agglomeration and combinations thereof. The solid compositions may have any form, preferably granular or in the form of a tablet or bar.

- It may be preferred that the composition is made by mixing all or part of the
 20 granules, including those made by agglomeration or spray-drying, and subsequently adding a binder and mixing or agglomerating the granules and binder to form the, preferably agglomerated detergent granules. These may be of the required particle size or they may be sieved to obtain particles of the required size.

- 25 In a highly preferred embodiment, the acid, or part thereof, and the carbonate source or part thereof, are present in an intimate mixture with one another, preferably in a granule, which means for the purpose of the invention that the acid and carbonate source are preferably homogeneously mixed. For optimum effervescence in aqueous medium the weight ratio of acid to carbonate source in the intimate mixture or the

effervescent granule is preferably from 0.1 to 10, preferably from 0.5 to 2.5 and more preferably from 1 to 2.

5 The acid is preferably present in such a granule at a level of from 5% to 85% by weight of the total granule, preferably from 10% to 75%, more preferably from 15% to 60% and most preferably from 10% to 50%.

10 The carbonate source is preferably present in such a granule at a level of from 5% to 90% by weight of the total, preferably from 10% to 80%, more preferably from 20% to 75% and most preferably from 30% to 65%.

15 The granule is preferably substantially free of water, i.e. no water has been added or present other than the moisture of the raw materials themselves. Typically, the level of water is below 5% by weight of the total intimate mixture or granule, preferably below 3% and more preferably below 1.5%.

It may be preferred that a desiccant is present in the intimate mixture or the granule, such as overdried inorganic and organic salts, anhydrous salts, in particular overdried silicates and aluminosilicates, anhydrous silicates and/ or sulphate salts.

20

The granules are preferably obtainable by a process comprising a granulation step, preferably comprising the step of dry-powder compaction or pressure agglomeration. While all binding mechanisms can occur in pressure agglomeration, adhesion forces between the solid particles, i.e., between the acid, carbonate source and optionally the binder if present, play an especially important role. This is because pressure
25 agglomeration, especially high pressure agglomeration, is an essentially dry process that forms new entities (i.e., dry effervescent granules) from solid particles (i.e., the acid, bicarbonate, carbonate source and optionally the binder) by applying external forces to densify a more or less defined bulk mass or volume and create binding

mechanisms between the solid particles providing strength to the new entity. i.e. the high external force applied brings the solid particles closely together.

The effervescent granules may optionally comprise a binder or a mixture thereof.

- 5 Typically, the granules comprise up to 50 % by weight of the total granule of a binder or a mixture thereof, preferably up to 35% and more preferably up to 20%. Suitable binders to use herein are those known to those skilled in the art and include anionic surfactants like C6-C20 alkyl or alkylaryl sulphonates or sulphates, preferably C8-C20 alkylbenzene sulphonates, cellulose derivatives such as
- 10 carboxymethylcellulose and homo- or co- polymeric polycarboxylic acid or their salts, nonionic surfactants, preferably C10-C20 alcohol ethoxylates containing from 5-100 moles of ethylene oxide per mole of alcohol and more preferably the C15-C20 primary alcohol ethoxylates containing from 20-100 moles of ethylene oxide per mole of alcohol. Of these tallow alcohol ethoxylated with 25 moles of ethylene oxide
- 15 per mole of alcohol (TAE25) or 50 moles of ethylene oxide per mole of alcohol (TAE50) are preferred. Other preferred binders include the polymeric materials like polyvinylpyrrolidones with an average molecular weight of from 12 000 to 700 000 and polyethylene glycols with an average weight of from 600 to 10 000. Copolymers of maleic anhydride with ethylene, methylvinyl ether, methacrylic acid or acrylic
- 20 acid are other examples of polymeric binders. Others binders further include C10-C20 mono and diglycerol ethers as well as C10-C20 fatty acids.

The effervescent granules may have any particle size, the preferred particle size depending on the application and the component of the granule.

25

The inventors have found that it can be beneficial for the sanitisation and cleaning performance that the acid herein is separated from the precursor and preferably any other bleach components present including any hydrogen peroxide source, including percarbonate salt, if present. Thus, the effervescing granules described above.

preferably comprise no percarbonate salt as carbonate source, but preferably comprise carbonate salts and/ or bicarbonate salts.

In a preferred embodiment, the composition preferably comprises granules whereof
 5 at least 60%, more preferably at least 80% by weight have an average particle size, by weight, of from 400 microns to 1400 microns, preferably from 500 microns to 1100 microns or even 750 to 1000 microns. It may be preferred that the compositions comprises less than 20% or even less than 10% or even less than 5% by weight of particulate components of a particle size of less than 300 microns, or even
 10 less than 425 microns or even less than 600 microns; it may also be preferred the composition comprise less than 20% or even less than 10% or even less than 5% by weight of the composition, of particulate components of a particle size of more than 1700 microns, or even more than 1400 microns or even more than 1180 microns. Thus, the compositions may comprise different granular components, which each
 15 have the above particle size requirements, and thus have a similar particle size distribution and mean particle size.

The inventors found that improved sanitisation is achieved when the composition contains perfumes or perfume components with a high fabric substantivity. It is
 20 believed that this is due to the perfume oils which remain on the surface of the washed fabric and which can thus provide sanitisation during the subsequent use of the fabric.

Such preferred perfume granules of encapsulated perfume oils are described in co-
 25 pending European patent application 98870137.1. Preferred levels of perfume granules will depend on the level of perfume oils therein, but generally the level is from about 0.05 to 8% or even 0.5% to 5% or even 0.8% to 3% by weight of the composition. Moreover, preferably the composition also comprises perfume components which are not in the form of encapsulated perfume oil granules, but

preferably in the form of perfume components sprayed onto the detergent granules of the composition.

The compositions herein preferably contain one or more additional detergent components selected from surfactants, bleach catalysts, additional builders, additional organic polymeric compounds, enzymes, suds suppressors, lime soap, dispersants, soil suspension and anti-redeposition agents soil releasing agents, brighteners, photobleaching agents and additional corrosion inhibitors.

It is to be understood that the levels of detergent ingredients are to be chosen such that the pH of 1% by weight of composition in demineralised water is as defined above. For example, it may be preferred that when crystalline layered silicates or amorphous silicates are used, the level thereof is up to about 12% by weight or even up to 10% by weight.

Surfactant

The detergent compositions herein preferably contain one or more surfactants. The surfactant may comprise any surfactant known in the art selected from anionic, nonionic, cationic, ampholytic, amphoteric and zwitterionic surfactants and mixtures thereof.

It should be understood that for the purpose of the invention the detergent composition may comprise surfactant which is not present in the intimate mixture with the crystalline layered silicate, but present in the other detergent components.

Anionic Surfactant

The compositions in accord with the present invention preferably comprise an anionic surfactant. Essentially any anionic surfactants useful for deterative purposes can be comprised in the detergent composition. These can include salts (including, for example, sodium, potassium, ammonium, and substituted ammonium salts such

as mono-, di- and triethanolamine salts) of the anionic sulfate, sulfonate, carboxylate and sarcosinate surfactants. Anionic sulfate and sulfonate surfactants are preferred.

Highly preferred are surfactants systems comprising a sulfonate and a sulfate
 5 surfactant, preferably a linear or branched alkyl benzene sulfonate and alkyl
 ethoxysulfates, as described herein, preferably combined with a cationic surfactants
 as described herein.

Highly preferred herein are anionic sulfonate surfactants. Particularly suitable for
 10 use herein include the salts of C₅-C₂₀ linear or branched alkylbenzene sulfonates,
 but also alkyl ester sulfonates, C₆-C₂₂ primary or secondary alkane sulfonates, C₆-
 C₂₄ olefin sulfonates, sulfonated polycarboxylic acids, alkyl glycerol sulfonates,
 fatty acyl glycerol sulfonates, fatty oleyl glycerol sulfonates, and any mixtures
 thereof. Most preferred are C₉-C₁₄ linear alkyl benzene sulfonates.

15 Anionic sulfate surfactants suitable for use herein include the linear and branched
 primary and secondary alkyl sulfates, alkyl ethoxysulfates, fatty oleoyl glycerol
 sulfates, alkyl phenol ethylene oxide ether sulfates, the C₅-C₁₇ acyl-N-(C₁-C₄ alkyl)
 and -N-(C₁-C₂ hydroxyalkyl) glucamine sulfates, and sulfates of
 20 alkylpolysaccharides such as the sulfates of alkylpolyglucoside (the nonionic
 nonsulfated compounds being described herein).

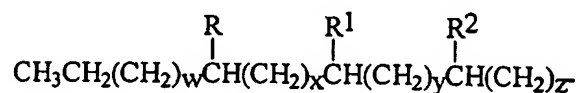
Alkyl sulfate surfactants are preferably selected from the linear and branched primary
 C₁₀-C₁₈ alkyl sulfates, more preferably the C₁₁-C₁₅ branched chain alkyl sulfates
 25 and the C₁₂-C₁₄ linear chain alkyl sulfates.

Alkyl ethoxysulfate surfactants are preferably selected from the group consisting of
 the C₁₀-C₁₈ alkyl sulfates which have been ethoxylated with from 0.5 to 20 moles
 of ethylene oxide per molecule. More preferably, the alkyl ethoxysulfate surfactant is

a C₁₁-C₁₈, most preferably C₁₁-C₁₅ alkyl sulfate which has been ethoxylated with from 0.5 to 7, preferably from 1 to 5, moles of ethylene oxide per molecule.

A particularly preferred aspect of the invention employs mixtures of the preferred alkyl sulfate and/ or sulfonate and alkyl ethoxysulfate surfactants. Such mixtures have been disclosed in PCT Patent Application No. WO 93/18124.

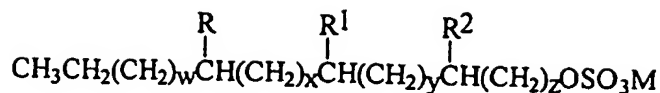
Highly preferred herein, in particular for providing an improved surfactant performance, are alkyl chain, mid-chain branched surfactant compounds of the formula



wherein the total number of carbon atoms in the branched primary alkyl moiety of this formula (including the R, R¹, and R² branching) is from 13 to 19; R, R¹, and R² are each independently selected from hydrogen and C₁-C₃ alkyl (preferably methyl), provided R, R¹, and R² are not all hydrogen and, when z is 0, at least R or R¹ is not hydrogen; w is an integer from 0 to 13; x is an integer from 0 to 13; y is an integer from 0 to 13; z is an integer from 0 to 13; and w + x + y + z is from 7 to 13.

The most preferred mid-chain branched surfactants compounds for use in the detergent compositions herein are mid-chain branched primary alkyl sulfonate and, even more preferably, sulfate surfactants. It should be understood that for the purpose of the invention, it may be preferred that the surfactant system comprises a mixture of two or more mid-chain branched primary alkyl sulfate or sulphonate surfactants.

Preferred mid-chain branched primary alkyl sulfate surfactants are of the formula



These surfactants have a linear primary alkyl sulfate chain backbone (i.e., the longest linear carbon chain which includes the sulfated carbon atom) which preferably comprises from 12 to 19 carbon atoms and their branched primary alkyl moieties
 5 comprise preferably a total of at least 14 and preferably no more than 20, carbon atoms. In the surfactant system comprising more than one of these sulfate surfactants, the average total number of carbon atoms for the branched primary alkyl moieties is preferably within the range of from greater than 14.5 to about 17.5. Thus, the surfactant system preferably comprises at least one branched primary alkyl
 10 sulfate surfactant compound having a longest linear carbon chain of not less than 12 carbon atoms or not more than 19 carbon atoms, and the total number of carbon atoms including branching must be at least 14, and further the average total number of carbon atoms for the branched primary alkyl moiety is within the range of greater than 14.5 to about 17.5.

15

R, R¹, and R² are each independently selected from hydrogen and C₁-C₃ alkyl group (preferably hydrogen or C₁-C₂ alkyl, more preferably hydrogen or methyl, and most preferably methyl), provided R, R¹, and R² are not all hydrogen. Further, when z is 1, at least R or R¹ is not hydrogen.

20

Preferred mono-methyl branched primary alkyl sulfates are selected from the group consisting of: 3-methyl pentadecanol sulfate, 4-methyl pentadecanol sulfate, 5-methyl pentadecanol sulfate, 6-methyl pentadecanol sulfate, 7-methyl pentadecanol sulfate, 8-methyl pentadecanol sulfate, 9-methyl pentadecanol sulfate, 10-methyl
 25 pentadecanol sulfate, 11-methyl pentadecanol sulfate, 12-methyl pentadecanol sulfate, 13-methyl pentadecanol sulfate, 3-methyl hexadecanol sulfate, 4-methyl hexadecanol sulfate, 5-methyl hexadecanol sulfate, 6-methyl hexadecanol sulfate, 7-methyl hexadecanol sulfate, 8-methyl hexadecanol sulfate, 9-methyl hexadecanol

sulfate, 10-methyl hexadecanol sulfate, 11-methyl hexadecanol sulfate, 12-methyl hexadecanol sulfate, 13-methyl hexadecanol sulfate, 14-methyl hexadecanol sulfate, and mixtures thereof.

- 5 Preferred di-methyl branched primary alkyl sulfates are selected from the group consisting of: 2,3-methyl tetradecanol sulfate, 2,4-methyl tetradecanol sulfate, 2,5-methyl tetradecanol sulfate, 2,6-methyl tetradecanol sulfate, 2,7-methyl tetradecanol sulfate, 2,8-methyl tetradecanol sulfate, 2,9-methyl tetradecanol sulfate, 2,10-methyl tetradecanol sulfate, 2,11-methyl tetradecanol sulfate, 2,12-methyl tetradecanol sulfate, 2,3-methyl pentadecanol sulfate, 2,4-methyl pentadecanol sulfate, 2,5-methyl pentadecanol sulfate, 2,6-methyl pentadecanol sulfate, 2,7-methyl pentadecanol sulfate, 2,8-methyl pentadecanol sulfate, 2,9-methyl pentadecanol sulfate, 2,10-methyl pentadecanol sulfate, 2,11-methyl pentadecanol sulfate, 2,12-methyl pentadecanol sulfate, 2,13-methyl pentadecanol sulfate, and mixtures thereof.

15

Alkoxylated Nonionic Surfactant

Essentially any alkoxylated nonionic surfactants are suitable herein. The ethoxylated and propoxylated nonionic surfactants are preferred.

20

- Preferred alkoxylated surfactants can be selected from the classes of the nonionic condensates of alkyl phenols, nonionic ethoxylated alcohols, nonionic ethoxylated/propoxylated fatty alcohols, nonionic ethoxylate/propoxylate condensates with propylene glycol, and the nonionic ethoxylate condensation products with propylene oxide/ethylene diamine adducts.

25

Nonionic surfactant can be present in the detergent compositions. It may be preferred that the level of ethoxylated nonionic surfactants in the intimate mixture are below 10% by weight of the mixture, preferably even 5% by weight.

30

The condensation products of aliphatic alcohols with from 1 to 25 moles of alkylene oxide, particularly ethylene oxide and/or propylene oxide, are suitable for use herein. The alkyl chain of the aliphatic alcohol can either be straight or branched, primary or secondary, and generally contains from 6 to 22 carbon atoms. Particularly preferred
5 are the condensation products of alcohols having an alkyl group containing from 8 to 20 carbon atoms with from 2 to 10 moles of ethylene oxide per mole of alcohol.

Cationic Surfactants

Suitable cationic surfactants to be used herein include the quaternary ammonium
10 surfactants. Preferably the quaternary ammonium surfactant is a mono C₆-C₁₆, preferably C₈-C₁₄ N-alkyl or alkenyl ammonium surfactants wherein the remaining N positions are substituted by methyl, hydroxyethyl or hydroxypropyl groups. Preferred are also the mono-alkoxylated and bis-alkoxylated amine surfactants.

15 Another suitable group of cationic surfactants which can be used in the detergent compositions or components thereof herein are cationic ester surfactants. The cationic ester surfactant is a, preferably water dispersible, compound having surfactant properties comprising at least one ester (i.e. -COO-) linkage and at least one cationically charged group.

20

Suitable cationic ester surfactants, including choline ester surfactants, have for example been disclosed in US Patents No.s 4228042, 4239660 and 4260529.

Bleach Catalyst

The composition herein can contain a transition metal containing bleach catalyst.

5

One suitable type of bleach catalyst is disclosed in U.S. Pat. 4,430,243.

Other types of bleach catalysts include the manganese-based complexes disclosed in U.S. Pat. 5,246,621 and U.S. Pat. 5,244,594. Preferred examples of these catalysts
 10 include $\text{Mn}^{\text{IV}}_2(\text{u-O})_3(1,4,7\text{-trimethyl-}1,4,7\text{-triazacyclononane})_2(\text{PF}_6)_2$, $\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}_2(\text{u-O})_1(\text{u-OAc})_2(1,4,7\text{-trimethyl-}1,4,7\text{-triazacyclononane})_2(\text{ClO}_4)_2$, $\text{Mn}^{\text{IV}}_4(\text{u-O})_6(1,4,7\text{-triazacyclononane})_4(\text{ClO}_4)_2$, $\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}\text{Mn}^{\text{IV}}_4(\text{u-O})_1(\text{u-OAc})_2(1,4,7\text{-trimethyl-}1,4,7\text{-triazacyclononane})_2(\text{ClO}_4)_3$, and mixtures thereof. Others are described in European patent application publication no. 549,272. Other ligands
 15 suitable for use herein include 1,5,9-trimethyl-1,5,9-triazacyclododecane, 2-methyl-1,4,7-triazacyclononane, 2-methyl-1,4,7-triazacyclononane, 1,2,4,7-tetramethyl-1,4,7-triazacyclononane, and mixtures thereof.

The bleach catalysts useful herein may also be selected as appropriate for the present
 20 invention. For examples of suitable bleach catalysts see U.S. Pat. 4,246,612 and U.S. Pat. 5,227,084. See also U.S. Pat. 5,194,416 which teaches mononuclear manganese (IV) complexes such as $\text{Mn}(1,4,7\text{-trimethyl-}1,4,7\text{-triazacyclononane})(\text{OCH}_3)_3(\text{PF}_6)$.

Still another type of bleach catalyst, as disclosed in U.S. Pat. 5,114,606, is a water-
 25 soluble complex of manganese (III), and/or (IV) with a ligand which is a non-carboxylate polyhydroxy compound having at least three consecutive C-OH groups. Preferred ligands include sorbitol, iditol, dulcitol, mannitol, xylitol, arabitol, adonitol, meso-erythritol, meso-inositol, lactose, and mixtures thereof.

U.S. Pat. 5,114,611 teaches a bleach catalyst comprising a complex of transition metals, including Mn, Co, Fe, or Cu, with an non-(macro)-cyclic ligand. Said ligands are of the formula:



wherein R¹, R², R³, and R⁴ can each be selected from H, substituted alkyl and aryl groups such that each R¹-N=C-R² and R³-C=N-R⁴ form a five or six-membered ring. Said ring can further be substituted. B is a bridging group selected from O, S, CR⁵R⁶, NR⁷ and C=O, wherein R⁵, R⁶, and R⁷ can each be H, alkyl, or aryl groups, including substituted or unsubstituted groups. Preferred ligands include pyridine, pyridazine, pyrimidine, pyrazine, imidazole, pyrazole, and triazole rings. Optionally, said rings may be substituted with substituents such as alkyl, aryl, alkoxy, halide, and nitro. Particularly preferred is the ligand 2,2'-bispyridylamine. Preferred bleach catalysts include Co, Cu, Mn, Fe, -bispyridylmethane and -bispyridylamine complexes. Highly preferred catalysts include Co(2,2'-bispyridylamine)Cl₂, Di(isothiocyanato)bispyridylamine-cobalt (II), trisdipyrldylamine-cobalt(II) perchlorate, Co(2,2-bispyridylamine)₂O₂ClO₄, Bis-(2,2'-bispyridylamine) copper(II) perchlorate, tris(di-2-pyridylamine) iron(II) perchlorate, and mixtures thereof.

20

Other examples include binuclear Mn complexed with tetra-N-dentate and bi-N-dentate ligands, including N₄Mn^{III}(u-O)₂Mn^{IV}N₄)⁺ and [Bipy₂Mn^{III}(u-O)₂Mn^{IV}bipy₂](ClO₄)₃.

25 Other bleach catalysts are described, for example, in European patent application, publication no. 408,131 (cobalt complex catalysts), European patent applications, publication nos. 384,503, and 306,089 (metallo-porphyrin catalysts), U.S. 4,728,455

(manganese/multidentate ligand catalyst), U.S. 4,711,748 and European patent application, publication no. 224,952, (absorbed manganese on aluminosilicate catalyst), U.S. 4,601,845 (aluminosilicate support with manganese and zinc or magnesium salt), U.S. 4,626,373 (manganese/ligand catalyst), U.S. 4,119,557 (ferric complex catalyst), German Pat. specification 2,054,019 (cobalt chelant catalyst) Canadian 866,191 (transition metal-containing salts), U.S. 4,430,243 (chelants with manganese cations and non-catalytic metal cations), and U.S. 4,728,455 (manganese gluconate catalysts).

10 Builder material

In addition to the organic carboxylic acids, which may act as builders, and the carbonate salts, which may act as builders, the detergent compositions of the invention preferably comprise additional water-soluble and/ or water insoluble builder material. Preferred are silicates, aluminosilicates, crystalline layered silicates and phosphate salts.

The compositions may for example comprise phosphate-containing builder material, preferably comprises tetrasodium pyrophosphate or even more preferably anhydrous sodium tripolyphosphate, present at a level of from 0.5% to 60%, more preferably from 5% to 50%, more preferably from 8% to 40%.

Suitable water-soluble builder compounds include the water soluble (poly)carboxylate salts and borates. The carboxylate or polycarboxylate builder can be monomeric or oligomeric in type although monomeric polycarboxylates are generally preferred for reasons of cost and performance.

It may be preferred that the (poly)carboxylates and/ or polymeric or oligomeric (poly)carboxylates are present at levels of less than 5%, preferably less than 3% or even less than 2% or even 0% by weight of the compositions.

Examples of largely water insoluble builders include the sodium aluminosilicates.

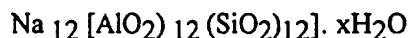
Suitable aluminosilicate zeolites have the unit cell formula $\text{Na}_z[(\text{AlO}_2)_z(\text{SiO}_2)_y]$.

5 $x\text{H}_2\text{O}$ wherein z and y are at least 6; the molar ratio of z to y is from 1.0 to 0.5 and x is at least 5, preferably from 7.5 to 276, more preferably from 10 to 264. The aluminosilicate material are in hydrated form and are preferably crystalline, containing from 10% to 28%, more preferably from 18% to 22% water in bound form.

10

The aluminosilicate zeolites can be naturally occurring materials, but are preferably synthetically derived. Synthetic crystalline aluminosilicate ion exchange materials are available under the designations Zeolite A, Zeolite B, Zeolite P, Zeolite X, Zeolite HS and mixtures thereof. Zeolite A has the formula:

15



wherein x is from 20 to 30, especially 27. Zeolite X has the formula $\text{Na}_{86} [(\text{AlO}_2)_{86}(\text{SiO}_2)_{106}] \cdot 276 \text{H}_2\text{O}$.

20

Another preferred aluminosilicate zeolite is zeolite MAP builder. Zeolite MAP is described in EP 384070A (Unilever). It is defined as an alkali metal alumino-silicate of the zeolite P type having a silicon to aluminium ratio not greater than 1.33, preferably within the range from 0.9 to 1.33 and more preferably within the range of from 0.9 to 1.2.

25

The compositions herein may also comprise additional silicate material, including amorphous silicate material, meta-silicates, preferably at least crystalline layered silicate material such as sold under the trade name SKS-6.

30 The silicate material is preferably present at a level of less than 20% by weight

of the compositions, preferably less than 15% by weight or even less than 10% by weight.

Heavy metal ion sequestrant

- 5 Heavy metal ion sequestrant are also useful additional ingredients herein. By heavy metal ion sequestrant it is meant herein components which act to sequester (chelate) heavy metal ions. These components may also have calcium and magnesium chelation capacity, but preferentially they show selectivity to binding heavy metal ions such as iron, manganese and copper.
- 10 Heavy metal ion sequestrants are generally present at a level of from 0.005% to 10%, preferably from 0.1% to 5%, more preferably from 0.25% to 7.5% and most preferably from 0.3% to 2% by weight of the compositions.
- 15 Suitable heavy metal ion sequestrants for use herein include organic phosphonates, such as the amino alkylene poly (alkylene phosphonates), alkali metal ethane 1-hydroxy disphosphonates and nitrilo trimethylene phosphonates.
- 20 Preferred among the above species are diethylene triamine penta (methylene phosphonate), ethylene diamine tri (methylene phosphonate) hexamethylene diamine tetra (methylene phosphonate) and hydroxy-ethylene 1,1 diphosphonate, 1,1 hydroxyethane diphosphonic acid and 1,1 hydroxyethane dimethylene phosphonic acid.
- 25 Other suitable heavy metal ion sequestrant for use herein include nitrilotriacetic acid and polyaminocarboxylic acids such as ethylenediaminetetracetic acid, ethylenediamine disuccinic acid, ethylenediamine diglutamic acid, 2-hydroxypropylenediamine disuccinic acid or any salts thereof.

Other suitable heavy metal ion sequestrants for use herein are iminodiacetic acid derivatives such as 2-hydroxyethyl diacetic acid or glyceryl imino diacetic acid, described in EP-A-317,542 and EP-A-399,133. The iminodiacetic acid-N-2-hydroxypropyl sulfonic acid and aspartic acid N-carboxymethyl N-2-hydroxypropyl-
 5 3-sulfonic acid sequestrants described in EP-A-516,102 are also suitable herein. The β -alanine-N,N'-diacetic acid, aspartic acid-N,N'-diacetic acid, aspartic acid-N-monoacetic acid and iminodisuccinic acid sequestrants described in EP-A-509,382 are also suitable.

10 EP-A-476,257 describes suitable amino based sequestrants. EP-A-510,331 describes suitable sequestrants derived from collagen, keratin or casein. EP-A-528,859 describes a suitable alkyl iminodiacetic acid sequestrant. Dipicolinic acid and 2-phosphonobutane-1,2,4-tricarboxylic acid are also suitable. Glycinamide-N,N'-disuccinic acid (GADS), ethylenediamine-N,N'-diglutamic
 15 acid (EDDG) and 2-hydroxypropylenediamine-N,N'-disuccinic acid (HPDDS) are also suitable.

Especially preferred are diethylenetriamine pentacetic acid, ethylenediamine-N,N'-disuccinic acid (EDDS) and 1,1 hydroxyethane diphosphonic acid or the
 20 alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, ammonium, or substituted ammonium salts thereof, or mixtures thereof.

Enzyme

Another preferred ingredient useful herein is one or more additional enzymes.

25

Preferred additional enzymatic materials include the commercially available lipases, cutinases, amylases, neutral and alkaline proteases, cellulases, endolases, esterases, pectinases, lactases and peroxidases conventionally incorporated into detergent compositions. Suitable enzymes are discussed in US Patents 3,519,570 and
 30 3,533,139.

Preferred commercially available protease enzymes include those sold under the tradenames Alcalase, Savinase, Primase, Durazym, and Esperase by Novo Industries A/S (Denmark), those sold under the tradename Maxatase, Maxacal and Maxapem
 5 by Gist-Brocades, those sold by Genencor International, and those sold under the tradename Opticlean and Optimase by Solvay Enzymes. Protease enzyme may be incorporated into the compositions in accordance with the invention at a level of from 0.0001% to 4% active enzyme by weight of the composition.

10 Additional Organic Polymeric Compound

Additional organic polymeric compounds, not being the carboxylic acids herein, are preferred additional components of the compositions herein or the agglomerates herein, where they may act such as to bind the agglomerate components together.

15 By organic polymeric compound it is meant herein essentially any polymeric organic compound commonly used as binder, dispersants, and anti-redeposition and soil suspension agents in detergent compositions, including any of the high molecular weight organic polymeric compounds described as clay flocculating agents herein, including quaternised ethoxylated (poly) amine clay-soil removal/ anti-redeposition
 20 agent in accord with the invention.

Organic polymeric compound is typically incorporated in the detergent compositions of the invention at a level of from 0.01% to 30%, preferably from 0.1% to 15%, most preferably from 0.5% to 10% by weight of the compositions.

25

Organic polymeric compounds suitable for incorporation in the detergent compositions herein include cellulose derivatives such as methylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose and hydroxyethylcellulose. Highly preferred is also - or amide-modified carboxymethyl cellulose and - or amide-
 30 modified celluloses, or derivatives thereof

Further useful organic polymeric compounds are the polyethylene glycols, particularly those of molecular weight 1000-10000, more particularly 2000 to 8000 and most preferably about 4000.

5

Suds Suppressing System

The detergent compositions of the invention, when formulated for use in machine washing compositions, may comprise a suds suppressing system present at a level of from 0.01% to 15%, preferably from 0.02% to 10%, most preferably from 0.05% to 3% by weight of the composition.

10

Suitable suds suppressing systems for use herein may comprise essentially any known antifoam compound, including, for example silicone antifoam compounds and 2-alkyl alcanol antifoam compounds.

15

Clay softening agents

The composition herein may be a detergent which provides softening through the wash. Preferred may be that the composition comprises a clay softening agent, and preferably also a flocculating agent.

20

Specific examples of suitable smectite clays include those selected from the classes of the montmorillonites, hectorites, volchonskoites, nontronites, saponites and sauconites, particularly those having an alkali or alkaline earth metal ion within the crystal lattice structure. Sodium or calcium montmorillonite are particularly preferred. Preferred are bentonite clays.

25

Preferred as clay flocculating agents herein are organic polymeric materials having an average weight of from 100,000 to 10,000,000, preferably from 150,000 to 5,000,000, more preferably from 200,000 to 2,000,000.

30

Suitable organic polymeric materials comprise homopolymers or copolymers containing monomeric units selected from alkylene oxide, particularly ethylene oxide, acrylamide, acrylic acid, vinyl alcohol, vinyl pyrrolidone, and ethylene imine. Homopolymers of, on particular, ethylene oxide, but also acrylamide and acrylic acid are preferred.

European Patents No.s EP-A-299,575 and EP-A-313,146 in the name of the Procter and Gamble Company describe preferred organic polymeric clay flocculating agents for use herein.

Other Optional Ingredients

Other optional ingredients suitable for inclusion in the compositions of the invention include perfumes, such as the encapsultyed perfumes described above, brightners, speckles, including colours or dyes, filler salts, with sodium sulfate being a preferred filler salt.

Also, minor amounts (e.g., less than about 20% by weight) of neutralizing agents, additional buffering agents, phase regulants, hydrotropes, enzyme stabilizing agents, polyacids, suds regulants, opacifiers, anti-oxidants, bactericides and dyes, such as those described in US Patent 4,285,841 to Barrat et al., issued August 25, 1981 (herein incorporated by reference), can be present.

Abbreviations used in the examples

| | | |
|-------|---|--|
| LAS | : | Sodium linear C11-13 alkyl benzene sulfonate |
| TAS | : | Sodium tallow alkyl sulfate |
| CxyAS | : | Sodium C1x - C1y alkyl sulfate |

| | | | |
|----|-----------------|---|---|
| | C46SAS | : | Sodium C14 - C16 secondary (2.3) alkyl sulfate |
| | CxyEzS | : | Sodium C1x-C1y alkyl sulfate condensed with z moles of ethylene oxide |
| 5 | CxyEz | : | C1x-C1y predominantly linear primary alcohol condensed with an average of z moles of ethylene oxide |
| | QAS | : | R2.N+(CH3)2(C2H4OH) with R2 = C12 - C14 |
| | QAS | : | R2.N+(CH3)2(C2H4OH) with R2 = C8 - C11 |
| | Soap | : | Sodium linear alkyl carboxylate derived from an 80/20 mixture of tallow and coconut fatty acids |
| 10 | STS | : | Sodium toluene sulphonate |
| | STPP | : | Anhydrous sodium tripolyphosphate |
| | Zeolite A | : | Hydrated sodium aluminosilicate of formula $\text{Na}_{12}(\text{AlO}_2\text{SiO}_2)_{12} \cdot 27\text{H}_2\text{O}$ having a primary particle size in the range from 0.1 to 10 micrometers (weight expressed on an anhydrous basis) |
| 15 | NaSKS-6 | : | Crystalline layered silicate of formula d- $\text{Na}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5$ average particle size of 25 microns |
| | Carbonate | : | Anhydrous sodium carbonate |
| | Bicarbonate | : | Anhydrous sodium bicarbonate |
| 20 | Silicate | : | Amorphous sodium silicate ($\text{SiO}_2:\text{Na}_2\text{O} = 2.0:1$) |
| | Sulfate | : | Anhydrous sodium sulfate |
| | Mg sulfate | : | Anhydrous magnesium sulfate |
| | Citrate | : | Tri-sodium citrate dihydrate |
| 25 | MA/AA | : | Copolymer of 1:4 maleic/acrylic acid, average molecular weight about 70,000 |
| | AA | : | Sodium polyacrylate polymer of average molecular weight 4,500 |
| | CMC | : | Sodium carboxymethyl cellulose |
| 30 | Cellulose ether | : | Methyl cellulose ether with a degree of polymerization of 650 available from Shin Etsu Chemicals |

| | | | |
|----|--------------|---|--|
| | Protease | : | Proteolytic enzyme, having 3.3% by weight of active enzyme, sold by NOVO Industries A/S under the tradename Savinase or proteolytic enzyme, having 4% by weight of active enzyme, as described in WO 95/10591, sold by Genencor Int. Inc. |
| 5 | Amylase | : | Amylolytic enzyme, having 1.6% by weight of active enzyme, sold by NOVO Industries A/S under the tradename Termamyl 120T |
| 10 | Lipase | : | Lipolytic enzyme, having 2.0% by weight of active enzyme, sold by NOVO Industries A/S under the tradename Lipolase or lipolytic enzyme, having 2.0% by weight of active enzyme, sold by NOVO Industries A/S under the tradename Lipolase Ultra |
| 15 | PB4 | : | Particle containing sodium perborate tetrahydrate of nominal formula $\text{NaBO}_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$, the particles having a weight average particle size of 950 microns, 85% particles having a particle size of from 850 microns to 950 microns |
| 20 | PB1 | : | Particle containing anhydrous sodium perborate bleach of nominal formula $\text{NaBO}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}_2$, the particles having a weight average particle size of 800 microns, 85% particles having a particle size of from 750 microns to 950 microns |
| 25 | Percarbonate | : | Particle containing sodium percarbonate of nominal formula $2\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$, the particles having a weight average particle size of 550 to 850 microns, 5% or less having a particle size of less than 300 microns and 7% or less having a particle size of more than 1180 microns |
| | NOBS | : | Particle comprising nonanoyloxybenzene sulfonate in the form of the sodium salt, the particles having a weight average particle size of 550 microns to 900 microns |

| | | | |
|----|----------------|---|--|
| | NAC-OBS | : | Particle comprising (6-nonamidocaproyl) oxybenzene sulfonate, the particles having a weight average particle size of from 550 microns to 900 microns |
| 5 | TAED I | : | Particle containing tetraacetythylenediamine, the particles having a weight average particle size of from 550 microns to 900 microns |
| | DTPA | : | Diethylene triamine pentaacetic acid |
| | DTPMP | : | Diethylene triamine penta (methylene phosphonate), marketed by Monsanto under the Tradename Dequest 2060 |
| 10 | Photoactivated | : | Sulfonated zinc phthlocyanine encapsulated in bleach (1) dextrin soluble polymer |
| | Photoactivated | : | Sulfonated alumino phthlocyanine encapsulated in bleach (2) dextrin soluble polymer |
| 15 | Brightener | : | Disodium 4,4'-bis(2-sulphostyryl)biphenyl or Disodium 4,4'-bis(4-anilino-6-morpholino-1.3.5-triazin-2-yl)amino) stilbene-2:2'-disulfonate |
| | EDDS | : | Ethylenediamine-N,N'-disuccinic acid, (S,S) isomer in the form of its sodium salt. |
| | HEDP | : | 1,1-hydroxyethane diphosphonic acid |
| 20 | PEGx | : | Polyethylene glycol, with a molecular weight of x (typically 4,000) |
| | PEO | : | Polyethylene oxide, with an average molecular weight of 50,000 |
| | TEPAE | : | Tetraethylenepentaamine ethoxylate |
| 25 | PVI | : | Polyvinyl imidosole, with an average molecular weight of 20,000 |
| | PVP | : | Polyvinylpyrrolidone polymer, with an average molecular weight of 60,000 |
| 30 | PVNO | : | Polyvinylpyridine N-oxide polymer, with an average molecular weight of 50,000 |

- PVPVI : Copolymer of polyvinylpyrrolidone and vinylimidazole, with an average molecular weight of 20,000
- QEA : bis((C₂H₅O)(C₂H₄O)_n)(CH₃) -N⁺-C₆H₁₂-N⁺-(CH₃) bis((C₂H₅O)-(C₂H₄ O))_n, wherein n = from 20 to 30
- 5 SRP : Anionically end capped poly esters
- Silicone antifoam : Polydimethylsiloxane foam controller with siloxane
or suds suppresser oxyalkylene copolymer as dispersing agent with a ratio of said
foam controller to said dispersing agent of 10:1 to 100:1

In the following examples all levels are quoted as % by weight of the composition:

TABLE I

The following compositions are in accordance with the invention and have

5 pH in the wash, as measured by the method defined herein, of around 9.4 -9.85:

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K |
|-----------------------------------|----------|------|------|----------|----------|------|---|---|---|---|---|
| <u>Spray-dried</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Granules</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LAS | 8.0 | 10.0 | 15.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 10.0 | - | - | - | | |
| TAS | - | 1.0 | - | 0.5 | 0.5 | | - | - | - | | |
| MBAS | 4.0 | - | | 5.0 | - | | - | - | - | | |
| C ₄₅ AS | - | - | 1.0 | | 5.0 | 2.0 | - | - | - | | |
| C ₄₅ AE ₃ S | - | - | | 1.0 | 1.0 | | - | - | - | | |
| QAS | | | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | - | - | - | | |
| DTPA, HEDP and/or EDDS | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.4 | - | | - | - | | |
| MgSO ₄ | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | | - | - | - | | |
| Sodium carbonate | 3.0 | 7.0 | 5.0 | 4.0 | - | 3.0 | - | - | - | | |
| Sodium sulphate | - | - | - | - | 5.0 | 3.0 | - | - | - | | |
| Sodium silicate 1.6R | - | - | - | 0.3 | 2.0 | | - | - | - | | |
| STPP | - | - | - | - | - | 16.0 | | | | | |
| Zeolite A | 16. 0 | 18.0 | 20.0 | 20. 0 | 10. 0 | - | - | - | - | | |
| SKS-6 | 8.0 | - | - | | 5.0 | - | - | - | - | | |
| MA/AA or AA | 1.0 | 2.0 | - | - | - | 2.0 | - | - | - | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|------|------|---|-----|------|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| PEG 4000 | - | 2.0 | - | - | - | 1.0 | - | - | - | - | - |
| QEA | 1.0 | - | - | - | 1.0 | 1.0 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Brightener | 0.0 | 0.05 | 0.05 | - | - | 0.0 | - | - | - | - | - |
| | 5 | | | | | 5 | | | | | |
| Silicone oil | 0.0 | 0.01 | 0.01 | - | - | 0.01 | - | - | - | - | - |
| | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Agglomerate</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TAS | | | | | | | | 0.5 | 0.5 | - | 0.8 |
| LAS | 3.0 | | - | - | - | - | 6.0 | 2.0 | 8.0 | - | - |
| MBAS | | | - | - | - | - | 2.0 | - | 1.0 | 14.0 | 8.0 |
| C45AS | | | - | - | - | - | - | 4.0 | - | - | 4.0 |
| C45AE ₃ | | | - | - | - | - | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.5 | - | 1.0 |
| Carbonate | 1.0 | | - | - | - | - | 6.0 | 7.0 | 5.0 | - | 3.0 |
| Sodium citrate | 2.0 | | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5.0 | | |
| Citric acid | 2.0 | | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 9.0 | - |
| QEA | | | - | - | - | - | 2.0 | 1.0 | - | 1.0 | - |
| SRP | | | - | - | - | - | 1.0 | 0.2 | - | - | - |
| Zeolite A | 2.0 | | - | - | - | - | 20. | 15. | 18.0 | 15.0 | 25.0 |
| | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Sodium silicate | | | - | - | - | - | - | 0.5 | 0.5 | - | - |
| PEG | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2.0 | - | - | - | - |
| MA/AA or AA | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3.0 | 4.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.8 |
| <u>Builder</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Agglomerates</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SKS-6 | | | - | - | - | - | 3.0 | - | 7.0 | - | - |
| | 6.0 | | | | | | | | | | |
| LAS | 4.0 | - | - | - | - | - | 3.0 | - | 6.0 | - | - |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------|------|------|----------|----------|------|----------|----------|------|------|------|--|
| <u>Dry-add</u> <u>particulate</u> <u>components</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Effervescence granule of carbonate/ bicarbonate/cit ric acid 1:1:1 | 10. 0 | 15.0 | 15.0 | - | - | 12.0 | 2.0 | - | 15.0 | 12.0 | | |
| Sodium bicarbonate | - | - | 4.0 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 2.0 | 7.0 | 8.0 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 5.0 | |
| Sodium carbonate | 3.0 | - | 2.0 | 2.0 | - | - | - | - | - | 5.0 | | |
| NOBS | 3.0 | 3.0 | 4.5 | - | - | - | - | - | 5.0 | - | - | |
| TAED | 2.5 | 2.0 | - | 6.0 | 3.0 | 5.0 | - | 4.5 | - | 5.0 | - | |
| NACA-OBS | - | - | - | - | 2.5 | - | - | - | - | - | 4.5 | |
| Citric acid | 5.0 | 5.0 | 3.0 | - | 8.0 | - | 10. 0 | 7.0 | - | 7.0 | 10.0 | |
| Maleic acid | - | - | - | 10. 0 | - | 10.0 | | | | | | |
| Citrate | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3.0 | - | - | - | 2.0 | |
| Percarbonate | 15. 0 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 20. 0 | - | - | 14. 0 | 18. 0 | 20.0 | 10.0 | 16.0 | |
| PB1 and/ or PB4 | - | 6.0 | - | - | 10. 0 | 18.0 | - | - | - | | | |
| Photobleach | 0.0 2 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.1 | 0.0 5 | - | 0.3 | - | 0.03 | | | |

[illegible]

Claims

1. A laundry or dish washing detergent composition comprising a bleach system which contains a hydrogen peroxide source and at least 2.5% by weight of a peroxyacid bleach precursor, at least 15% by weight of a carbonate source, which may include the hydrogen peroxide source, at least 7% by weight of an acid, preferably an organic acid, whereby a 1% by weight mixture of the composition in demineralised water provides a pH from 8.8 to 9.9.
2. A composition according to claim 1, which comprises at least 7% by weight of an acid selected from carboxylic acids, preferably from citric acid, maleic acid, malic acid or mixtures thereof and whereby the carbonate source comprises at least 5% by weight of the composition of an alkali or earth alkali carbonate salt, at least 8% by weight of the composition of an alkali or earth alkali percarbonate salt and at least 2% by weight of the composition of an alkali or earth alkali bicarbonate salt.
3. A composition according to claim 1 or 2 whereby the peroxyacid bleach precursor is present at a level of 3% to 10% by weight of the composition, or even 4% to 6% by weight and whereby the composition comprises from 10% to 45% by weight, more preferably from 15% to 35% by weight of the hydrogen peroxide source, preferably a percarbonate salt which when present forms part of the carbonate source.
4. A composition according to any preceding claim whereby the pH is from 9.2 to 9.85 or even from 9.4 to 9.8.
5. A composition according to any preceding claim comprising at least two peroxyacid bleach precursors, preferably TAED and a precursor selected from NOBS, DOBS or NACA-OBS.

6. A composition according to any preceding claim comprising a granule which comprises said precursor or part thereof and a carbonate salt, percarbonate salt and/ or a bicarbonate salt, preferably being in the form of an intimate, homogeneous mixture with one another, the granule being substantially free of the acid.
7. A composition according to any preceding claim comprising a granule which contains the acid or part thereof and the carbonate and/ or bicarbonate salt present in the carbonate source, the acid and carbonate and/ or bicarbonate preferably being present in the form of an intimate, homogeneous mixture with one another.
8. A composition according to any preceding claim comprising a perfume component which contains a mixture of perfume oils encapsulated by an encapsulating agent, the agent preferably comprising a starch or starch derivative.
9. Use of a composition according to any of claims 1 to 8 for sanitisation of soiled fabrics or surfaces.
10. Use of a composition according to any of claims 1 to 8 to reduce the activity of micro-organisms, in particular bacteria, preferably of E Coli, E Hirae, S Aureus and Ps Aeruginosa.
11. Use according to claim 10 whereby the activity of at least one, preferably all, of the bacteria selected from the group comprising E Coli, E Hirae, S Aureus and Ps Aeruginosa is reduced by at least 10^5 or even 3×10^5 , as measured by the CEN method.
12. Use according to claim 10 or 11 comprising the steps of contacting the bacteria with an aqueous liquor comprising an amount of the composition such that the

peroxyacid bleach is present at a level of at least 100 ppm in the liquor, per 10^6 micro-organism.

13. Use of a pH regulating system comprising at least an acid and a carbonate source,
5 in a cleaning composition comprising a peroxyacid bleach precursor, the pH regulating system being capable of providing that the pH of a 1% mixture of the composition in demineralised water is from 8.8 to 9.9, preferably from 9.2 to 9.8.
- 10 14. Washing method for washing textile in a washing machine whereby a composition according to any of claims 1 to 8 is introduced in a dispensing device which is then introduced in the drum of the machine prior to the introduction of wash water.



Application No: GB 9920678.1
Claims searched: 1-14

Examiner: J. P. Bellia
Date of search: 7 January 2000

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:
UK CI (Ed.R): C5D
Int CI (Ed.7): C11D 3/39, 3/395
Other: ONLINE: EPODOC, WPI, JAPIO, TXTE

Documents considered to be relevant:

| Category | Identity of document and relevant passage | Relevant to claims |
|----------|---|--------------------|
| X | EP 0 737 738 A2 (CLEANTABS A/S) See Examples A-K | 1, 4 & 9-13 |
| X | EP 0 572 724 A1 (PROCTER & GAMBLE) See Example I at least | 1, 3, 4 & 9-13 |
| X | EP 0 550 077 A1 (PROCTER & GAMBLE) See Example compositions 1-3 & 7-11a | 1, 3, 4 & 9-13 |
| X | EP 0 504 091 A1 (VIKING INDUSTRIES LIMITED) See page 5 line 5-7, page 5 line 43-45 & Examples | 1, 3, 4 & 9-13 |
| X | WO 96/05283 A1 (PROCTER & GAMBLE) See Examples | 13 |
| X | WPI Abstract Accession No. 1997-333754 [31] & DE 019547730 A (HENKEL KGAA) See abstract | 13 |

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|---|---|---|--|
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